

Message Text

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21

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

FRB-03 XMB-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /078 W

----- 017342

R 221539Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3971

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4563

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, OVIP (DENT, FREDERICK B.)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DENT'S CALLS ON BELGIAN OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS

REF: STATE 118832

1. ON HIS FIRST DAY IN BRUSSELS, MAY 21, AMBASSADOR DENT CALLED ON BELGIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OLEFFE AND BELGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE TOUSSAINT. THE CALL ON TOUSSAINT, ALSO INCLUDED DEHENNIN, DEOBBELEER (HEAD OF BELGIAN DELEGATION TO MTN), STUYCK (DEPUTY HEAD OF BELGIAN MTN DELEGATION) AND MABILLE OF THE MTN DELEGATION. AT LUNCH GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE FOR AMBASSADOR DENT, WERE STUYCK, WASSEIGE AND BOURGUIGNON, THE LATTER BOTH IN OLEFFE'S CABINET.

2. AT HIS CALLS, AMBASSADOR DENT PRESENTED AS GENERAL BACKGROUND FOR US APPROACH TO MTN, WASHINGTON VIEW OF US ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR FALL PICK-UP.

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AMBASSADOR DENT SIAD HE HOPED THAT AT JULY TNC

MEETING COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE TO GET MTN SERIOUSLY UNDERWAY.
HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REAL PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AND SOME
MILESTONES RECORDED IN 1976 WHEN GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
IMPROVED. BELGIANS REFLECTED POSITIVE, SERIOUS APPROACH TO MTN.

3. MOST POINTED QUESTION RAISED BY BOTH BELGIAN
MINISTERS WAS HOW US SEES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE
AND MONETARY ISSUES AND, IN TOUSSAINT'S CASE, WHEN WE
MIGHT RESUME INTERNATIONAL MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS. IN
ANSWER TO QUESTION, LATTER REPLIED HE DID NOT CONSIDER
MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS A QUOTE PREALABLE UNQUOTE FOR
TRADE TALKS, BUT HE CONSIDERED THEM CLOSELY LINKED.
OLEFFE ALSO STRESSED NEED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
EXCHANGE RATE SITUATION IN TRADING RELATIONSHIP,
REFLECTING BELGIAN CONCERN REGARDING THEIR TRADE
COMPETITIVENESS WITH DROP IN VALUE OF THE DOLLAR
VIS-A-VIS BELGIAN FRANC.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY AMBASSADOR DENT, TOUSSAINT
SAID BELGIUM CONTINUED TO WELCOME FOREIGN INVESTMENT,
STRESSED SATISFACTION IN PARTICULAR WITH US FIRMS IN
BELGIUM, AND NOTED THAT THUS FAR THERE WAS NO
INDICATION THAT INVESTMENT BY ME COUNTRIES REPRESENTS
PROBLEM FOR BELGIUM.

5. NO SPECIFIC TRADE ISSUES WERE RAISED BY EITHER
SIDE.

6. THIS CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR DENT.
FIRESTONE

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